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NEW COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS IN OAK GROVE Combs McIntyre Community Center Celebrates Grand Opening of \$410,700 Facility

OAK GROVE, November 30, 2004 – Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana, joined community leaders in Oak Grove today to celebrate the grand opening of the new Combs McIntyre Community Center. USDA Rural Development provided \$170,700 in grant funds to the Oak Grove Recreation and Civic Club to fund construction of the new community center, and the State of Louisiana provided an additional \$240,000.

“Community facilities such as the Combs McIntyre Community Center are essential to rural communities like Oak Grove,” said Taylor. “This is more than a building—it is an opportunity for young and old alike to have access to educational, social, and cultural activities.” In addition to funding construction of the community center, USDA Rural Development provided \$18,700 in grant funding for a computer lab for the center.

“Our community center offers after-school tutoring, adult computer literacy classes, and youth development activities,” said Bobby Cockerham, President of the Oak Grove Recreation and Civic Club. “In the near future, we are planning to host an “after hours” community health fair—in an effort to get health care providers and working people together after work hours to discuss health care issues.”

To find out more information about programs available at the Combs McIntyre Community Center, contact Bobby Cockerham at (318) 428-4215.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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